



JOHN ENGLER, Governor

DEPARTMENT OF MANAGEMENT & BUDGET

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JANET E. PHIPPS, Director

September 26, 2000

MEMORANDUM

TO: Universal Service Fund Program (E-Rate) Participants

FROM: George Boersma, Chief Information Officer & Deputy Director

SUBJECT: Streamlined Approach for Telecommunication and Internet Service Purchases

The State of Michigan and MiCTA are pleased to offer a streamlined approach for acquiring specific purchased services through the Universal Service Fund program (E-Rate) application process. This new approach, which uses a statewide aggregated plan coordinated through MiCTA, provides the opportunity for you to save time, money, and effort when you participate in the E-Rate program.

Using the buying power of MiCTA's 12,000 member institutions and the Universal Service Fund (USF), you may be able to achieve significant savings on local phone service, leased circuits, video leased circuits, long distance phone service, wireless phone service, and Internet service. These savings translate into more dollars for educational technology programs such as distance learning, Internet training, and vocational education. MiCTA is providing the annual membership fee for Year 4 USF applications for qualified schools, libraries, and rural health care providers who are not presently MiCTA members. Schools, libraries, and rural health care providers may use MiCTA contracts without going through another bidding process since MiCTA contracts will be competitively bid. These factors make it even easier and more economical for your institution to participate.

On Thursday, October 12, 2000, the Michigan Information Network (MIN) will conduct a training session for intermediate school district and library representatives in Lansing at the Michigan Library and Historical Center Forum to explain the Universal Service Fund program in more detail and provide updates on the application process. MIN and MiCTA are preparing just-in-time training sessions on the E-Rate program to help participants better understand the

application filing process. Regional training sessions for schools and libraries will be held in November and December of 2000, and again in April of 2001, to "walk participants through the application process."

Rural Health Care providers will receive just-in-time training sessions on USF funding applications in February of 2001 due to the fact that the Rural Health Care Division (RHCD) funding under the USF program for Year 4 will occur between March and June of 2001.

Be sure to check out the MIN web site at <http://www.state.mi.us/cio/min/> for additional information on the MiCTA contract, the Universal Service Fund, and upcoming training events. A list of intermediate school district training representatives and their phone numbers is also available at the MIN web site for your convenience.

Should you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Laurie Taylor, Manager of Planning and Funding for the Office of the Michigan Information Network at (517) 241-0572 or taylorL4@state.mi.us.

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